

AMENDMENT

Unmarked Version

In the claims:

Presented below are the claims in a clean, unmarked format:

- 1 1. (Twice Amended) A method of facilitating person-to-person commerce
2 over a network, the method comprising:
3 harvesting user-specified images from a plurality of sites based upon user-
4 supplied information, the user-supplied information including
5 descriptions of items for sale and locations from which user-
6 specified images to be associated with the items can be retrieved;
7 creating thumbnail images corresponding to the harvested user-specified
8 images; and
9 aggregating the thumbnail images onto a web page for presentation at a
10 remote site.
- 1 2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating thumbnail
2 images corresponding to the harvested user-specified images comprises:
3 for each harvested user-specified image
4 decompressing the harvested user-specified image from a source format
5 to a decompressed image format;

6 converting the decompressed image format to a thumbnail image format;

7 and

8 compressing the thumbnail image format into an output format.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the source format comprises one of the
2 following image formats: TIFF, JPEG, AVI, JFIF, PNG, BMP, PBM, PGM,
3 PPM, PSD, XBM, XPM, WPG, PICT.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the output format comprises one of the
2 following image formats: TIFF, JPEG, AVI, JFIF, PNG, BMP, PBM, PGM,
3 PPM, PSD, XBM, XPM, WPG, PICT.

1 5. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the locations comprise
2 Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), and wherein harvesting user-
3 specified images from a plurality of sites based upon user-supplied
4 information comprises downloading the user-specified images from the
5 plurality of sites specified by the URLs.

1 6. (Twice Amended) A method of displaying items in a person-to-person
2 online trading environment, the method comprising:

3 storing at a local site a first thumbnail image associated with a first item for
4 sale, the first thumbnail image created based on a first user-
5 specified image at a first remote site;

6 storing at the local site a second thumbnail image associated with a
7 second item for sale, the second thumbnail image created based
8 upon a second user-specified image at a second remote site; and
9 combining the first and second thumbnail images onto a web page for
10 presentation at a third remote site.

1 7. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising harvesting
2 the first and second user-specified images from the first and second
3 remote sites, respectively, based upon user-supplied information including
4 Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) from which the first and second user-
5 specified images can be retrieved.

1 8. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising scaling the
2 first and second user-specified images to fit within a predetermined space.

1 9. (Once Amended) A method of accessing a database, the method
2 comprising:

3 loading a database comprising a plurality of thumbnail images completely
4 into a virtual address space of a process starting at a first address;
5 and

6 retrieving a thumbnail image of the plurality of thumbnail images from the
7 database by indexing into the virtual address space at a location
8 defined by the first address plus an offset corresponding to the
9 thumbnail image.

1 10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said loading a database
2 comprising a plurality of thumbnail images completely into a virtual
3 address space of a process starting at a first address comprises opening
4 the database as a memory mapped file.

1 11. (Once Amended) A method of generating HyperText Markup Language
2 (HTML), the method comprising:
3 accessing a data store having data for display, the data including
4 information associated with an item including an item number; and
5 generating HTML including a reference to an image associated with the
6 item, the reference based upon the item number and an image
7 format associated with the image.

1 12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the reference
2 comprises an inline image tag, and wherein said generating HyperText
3 Markup Language (HTML) including a reference to an image associated
4 with the item comprises specifying the SRC attribute of the inline image
5 tag in the form <path><item number>.<image extension>, where <image
6 extension> comprises a three or four character extension corresponding to
7 the image format.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the reference is in a form other than a
2 query.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the image is stored in a database that is
2 accessed as a memory mapped file.

1 15. (Once Amended) A method of displaying items, the method comprising:

2 storing in a database a first thumbnail image associated with a first item

3 for sale, the first thumbnail image created based on a first user-

4 specified image at a first remote site;

5 storing in the database a second thumbnail image associated with a

6 second item for sale, the second thumbnail image created based

7 upon a second user-specified image at a second remote site; and

8 responsive to a query, combining the first and second thumbnail images

9 onto a web page for presentation at a client from which the query

10 originated.

1 16. (Twice Amended) A method of displaying items in a person-to-person

2 online trading environment, the method comprising:

3 creating a first thumbnail image associated with a first item for sale, the

4 first thumbnail image based on a first user-specified image at a first

5 remote site;

6 creating a second thumbnail image associated with a second item for sale,

7 the second thumbnail image based on a second user-specified

8 image at a second remote site; and

9 responsive to a user query, combining the first and second thumbnail
10 images onto a web page for presentation at a client from which the
11 user query originated.

1 17. (Once Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising updating the
2 first thumbnail image.

1 18. (Once Amended) A method of allowing a user to preview a plurality of
2 items for sale comprising:

3 receiving a query; and

4 causing a plurality of thumbnail images corresponding to items that satisfy
5 the user query to be displayed, each of the thumbnail images
6 created based upon a user-specified image.

Please add the following new claims:

1 19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the user-specified image
2 comprises a location at which the image can be found.

1 20. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein said causing the plurality of
2 thumbnail images satisfying the user query to be displayed comprises
3 retrieving the plurality of thumbnail images by item numbers corresponding
4 to items that satisfy the query.

1 21. (New) A method of facilitating person-to-person commerce over a network,
2 the method comprising:

3 harvesting user-specified images from a plurality of sites based upon user-
4 supplied information, the user-supplied information including
5 descriptions of items for sale and locations from which user-
6 specified images to be associated with the items can be retrieved;
7 creating thumbnail images corresponding to the harvested user-specified
8 images, each of the thumbnail images having an associated item
9 number corresponding to an item for sale;
10 retrieving thumbnail images by corresponding item numbers; and
11 aggregating the thumbnail images onto a web page for presentation at a
12 remote site.

1 22. (New) A method of displaying items in a person-to-person online trading
2 environment, the method comprising:

3 storing at a local site a first thumbnail image associated with a first item for
4 sale, the first thumbnail image created based on a first user-
5 specified image at a first remote site, and corresponding to an item
6 number associated with the first item for sale;

7 storing at the local site a second thumbnail image associated with a
8 second item for sale, the second thumbnail image created based
9 upon a second user-specified image at a second remote site, and
10 corresponding to an item number associated with the second item
11 for sale;

12 retrieving the first and second thumbnail images by corresponding item
13 numbers; and
14 combining the first and second thumbnail images onto a web page for
15 presentation at a third remote site.

1 23. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein:

2 the first thumbnail image additionally corresponds to an item number
3 associated with the first item for sale;

4 the second thumbnail image additionally corresponds to an item number
5 associated with the second item for sale; and

6 the first and second thumbnail images are retrieved by their corresponding
7 item numbers in response to the query.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein:

2 the first thumbnail image additionally corresponds to an item number
3 associated with the first item for sale;

4 the second thumbnail image additionally corresponds to an item number
5 associated with the second item for sale; and

6 the first and second thumbnail images are retrieved by their corresponding
7 item numbers in response to the query.

1 25. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the thumbnail images are

2 represented in the form of a query, and said creating the thumbnail

- 3 images corresponding to the harvested user-specified images comprises
- 4 retrieving the thumbnail images using a query.